

Navy couple share remarkable achievement

By Katisha Draughn, Naval Support Activity Norfolk Public Affairs

Husband and wife typically do many things together – go to the movies, travel, cook and even exercise. Matthew and Constance Hebert can add a special item to their list of things they have done together. Both will be commissioned to Limited Duty Officer (LDO) next year.

LDO's are technically oriented officers who are selected for commissioning based on his or her skill or expertise. They perform duties specific to their occupational fields and require strong managerial skills.

Chief Quartermaster Matthew Hebert, an Emergency Management Officer with the Naval Support Activity Norfolk Northwest Annex, found out he had been selected as LDO by Cmdr. Ellen Duffy, officer in charge, Northwest Annex, while he was competing in a base challenge.

“I was so overwhelmed and filled with emotion,” said Matthew. “I just kept asking her, ‘Are you for real?’”

Chief Yeoman Constance Hebert, Administrative Lead Chief Petty Officer with the USS Roosevelt, was so full of joy when she heard the good news that she hugged everyone on the ship.

“I was ecstatic,” said Constance. “I screamed and the captain of the ship came over to congratulate me. It was such a great day.”

When the Heberts become LDO's, they will be the technical experts in their individual jobs and be given additional responsibility by their Commanding Officer or officer in charge.

“It can sometimes be challenging because as an officer you have to know both the leadership and the technical side of your job,” said Matthew.

As challenging as it may be, the Heberts are very excited and are looking forward to their new career roles with the Navy.

In Matthew's current job, he is responsible for coordinating with other entities and conducting base operations with the security team and tenant commands during emergency situations on-

base. Constance's responsibilities include overseeing 60 Sailors, maintaining the ship's schedule, reviewing and approving all documents before leaving the ship, managing the administration department and serving as the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Coordinator on the ship.

Matthew will be commissioned for LDO in Sept. 2012 and Constance will be commissioned in Feb. 2012.

"We have hit many milestones and are so thankful to be moving up in the Navy," said Matthew. "It is a great challenge for us as we continue to be given increased responsibility."

This husband and wife team appreciates their new duties, but what they appreciate even more is each other.

"She has been my motivation and my drive throughout these years," said Matthew. "We try to help each other out as much as possible."

After graduating from high school, Matthew had plans to go to college and play basketball and Constance, who was the oldest of three children, registered for school so she could help her family financially. Although they both had aspirations to make something of themselves, neither knew that the Navy would be where they would start a life-changing career.

Matthew enlisted in the Navy in 1997 and Constance enlisted in 2001. They met in Norfolk in 2001 and were married a few years later. They have two daughters, Helena, 7, and Madison, 4, and a son, Jayden, 10.

In their free time they enjoy exercising, playing Playstation 3 and the Wii with their children and golfing.

"Being in the Navy with my husband has been great," said Constance. "We can understand what the other is going through. That makes our relationship so much stronger."